

Message Text

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16

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 IO-14 DRC-01 EUR-25 /134 W

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R 130827Z JUN 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1119

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 6734

NOFORN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJ: POLITICAL OBSERVATIONS IN KWANGSI, KWANGTUNG

SUMMARY. POSTER ACTIVITY APPEARS TO BE AN ISSUE OF
STRUGGLE IN KWANGSI AS WELL AS KWANGTUNG.
END SUMMARY.

1. BRITISH PEKING EMBASSY OFFICER IAN ORR JUNE 12 PASSED
TO CONGENOFF FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS MADE A FEW DAYS EARLIER
WHILE VISITING KUEILIN, KWANGSI AND CANTON, KWANGTUNG.

2. KUEILIN: THERE WAS A FRESH FLURRY OF POSTER AND SLOGAN
ACTIVITY IN KUEILIN. EARLIER EFFORTS WERE STILL VISIBLE
DESPITE ATTEMPTS THAT HAD BEEN MADE TO ERASE THEM. ONE LARGE
SLOGAN, PARTLY DEFACED, REFERRED TO THE "EVIL RESULTS OF
DOCUMENT 802." ANOTHER FRAGMENT OF A SLOGAN CALLED FOR
"STUDY FROM THE WORKER OPPOSITION GROUP." NEW POSTERS CALLED
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FOR LIFTING "THE LID OFF THE KUEILIN MUNICIPAL LEADERSHIP",

AND SEVERAL SIGNS ATTACKED APPARENTLY LOCAL INDIVIDUALS BY NAME. MOST INTERESTING, ONE SLOGAN ASSERTED THAT CENTRAL DOCUMENT NUMBER 18 ASSURED THE RIGHT TO PUT UP POSTERS (THE RIGHT TO PUT UP POSTERS WAS ALSO RECENTLY AFFIRMED IN CANTON; HONG KONG 6485). ORR SPECULATED THAT THERE WAS CONTENTION OVER POSTERS AND THEIR PROPER CONTENTS.

3. ORR RECOUNTED WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS A DISTURBING EVENING AT A VARIETY SHOW IN KUEILIN. THE AUDIENCE WHICH HAD BEEN REACTING ENTHUSIASTICALLY TO ACROBATS AND MUSICIANS, FELL SUDDENLY SILENT WHEN A SINGER SANG "ODE TO CHAIRMAN MAO". NO ONE MOVED OR MADE A SOUND DURING OR AFTER THE NUMBER, AND THE TENSION BROKE LIKE A DAM WHEN THE ACROBATS RACED BACK ON STAGE. ORR FIRMLY BELIEVES THE REACTION WAS ONE OF PROTEST; IF IT WAS REVERENCE THEN IT WAS WEIRD AND LIKE NOTHING HE HAD WITNESSED BEFORE IN HIS TWO YEARS IN CHINA.

4. IN CANTON ORR SAW MUCH POSTER ACTIVITY, INCLUDING ONE LARGE SLOGAN PAINTED ON A HALLWAY INSIDE A BUILDING WHICH READ "COMMEMORATE THE EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY OF CHAIRMAN MAO'S SELF-CRITICISM." ORR RECALLED HEARING THAT MAO HAD OFFERED SELF -CRITICISM IN THE PAST, BUT WAS MYSTIFIED ABOUT THE SLOGAN'S MENTIONED OF THE EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY." (THE REFERENCE COULD BE TO MAO'S JULY 8, 1966 LETTER TO CHIANG CHING, WHICH IS INCLUDED IN CURRENT STUDY MATERIAL, IN WHICH MAO ON THE EVE OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION SPEAKS CRITICALLY OF LIN PIAO BUT ALSO PSEUDO-MODESTLY OF HIMSELF.) ORR GUESSED THAT THE MEANING OF THE SLOGAN WAS TO INVITE OTHER, LESSER LEADERS TO EMULATE MAO BY OFFERING SELF-CRITICISMS THEMSELVES. HUANG YUNG-SHENG WAS ATTACKED BY NAME IN SOME POSTERS WHICH CALLED FOR EXPOSING HIS AND LIN'S FOLLOWERS IN KWANGTUNG.

5. COMMENT. DISPUTE AND CONFUSION OVER POSTERS AND THEIR CONTENTS IS CONTINUING AND CONSTITUTE AN ISSUE WITHIN THE CURRENT STRUGGLE OVER THE CONDUCT OF THE MOVEMENT.
CROSS

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 13 JUN 1974
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Disposition Reason:
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